Agricultural products under the purview of QRs

2400. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the removal of Quantitative Restrictions has not changed the overall rate of growth of imports or even their consumption;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of various agricultural products coming under the purview of Quantitative Restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Import restrictions are being removed as part of economic liberlization programme of the Government and also in terms of our international obligations. The removal of restrictions has not altered the overall rate of growth of imports of the country. The growth rate of imports was 15.3% in 1993-94, 23.1% in 1994-95, 36.4% in 1995-96, 13.2% in 1996-97, 11% in 1997-98, 15.6% in 1998-99. The process of removal of Quantitative Restrictions on most agricultural items began on 1.4.2000. The import growth rate during the year 2000-2001 was only 7.27 in rupee terms and 0.27% in US dollar terms. The growth rate of imports during the first nine months of financial year 2001-2002 was only 0.31% in Dollar terms and 4.55 in Rs. terms, compared to the same period for the previous year. The import data for 714 items, QRs on which were removed on 31.03.2000, for the year 2000-2001, indicates a growth in import of these items by less than 6%. Similarly, the import of 300 sensitive items, which is being monitored by a Standing Group of Secretaries, has also not indicated any surge in imports in the first nine months of financial year 2001-2002. The overall picture that emerges is thus one of normal trading activity in response to demand and supply factors.

(c) The various agricultural products still under the purview of Quantitative Restrictions include Live Animals, Meat and Meat products of Bovine Animals, Meat and Meat products of wild animals, live fish and various kinds of vegetable planting material. These restrictions are being maintained under Article XX of

GATT for *inter alia*, protecting Human, animal or plant life or health.

Declaration of Pandu as Dry Port

2401. SHRI INDRAMONI BORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to declare Pandu near Guwahati as Dry Port;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard; and

(c) by when, formalities will be completed to declare Pandu as Dry Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No proposal for declaring Pandu near Guwahati as an Inland Container Depot/Container Freight Station (also known as Dry Port) has been received by the Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Department of Commerce for consideration.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Anti-Dumping Cases

2402. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of anti-dumping cases registered against various countries during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) the details of the cases;

(c) the progress of each case in brief; and

(d) the details of steps the Director General of Anti-Dumping is taking or propsed to take to curb dumping in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The number of Anti-Dumping cases initiated during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 were 19, 28 and 30 respectively. Details of these cases and the status as on date is given in the table.